

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF SEAN J. COOKSEY

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in a few moments, we are going to be voting on a series of nominations to the Federal Election Commission, one of which is of personal interest to me. It is the nomination of Sean Cooksey to be a Commissioner of that body.

I know Sean personally because I have had the great privilege of working with Sean for the last 2 years while he has served as the general counsel in my office. Sean is a native Missourian. He comes from the eastern part of the State, just north of St. Louis. He is a proud graduate of Truman State University in the State of Missouri. He comes from a working family there in the State, and his family still lives there.

Sean has rendered exceptional service to me this last year and a half. In fact, when I came to the Senate not even 2 years ago, I have to say Sean had more experience than I did, having served in this body for several years before in the office—on the staff of Senator TED CRUZ of Texas.

Sean has done absolutely outstanding work in the last year and a half in my office helping us pass important legislation, including my first bill signed into law in the Senate, the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act. This is a law that will direct new funding to police officers and other law enforcement all across the State of Missouri and across the Nation to get the help and support they need when they are exposed to violence, when they are exposed to situations that require followup help, counseling. It gets them the resources especially in small and local police departments in rural areas, like those across my State. Sean was instrumental in drafting this legislation and in getting it passed. It was a proud day almost a year and a half ago when President Trump signed that bill into law.

This is just one example of the outstanding service Sean has rendered not just to my office but to the people of Missouri and not just to the people of Missouri but to the people of the United States. That is why, while I am sorry to see Sean go on a personal level, I am absolutely delighted for the country because my loss is going to be the gain of the United States of America.

I want to congratulate Sean on this nomination and what I think will soon be his confirmation in just a few moment's time.

I want to congratulate his family. I know this is a very proud day for them. I believe Sean will be the youngest member of the Federal Election Commission, maybe in the history of this body. I can't think of anyone more de-

serving. I know that he will render distinguished service to the country in this capacity.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON DICKERSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dickerson nomination?

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 Ex.]

YEAS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Ernst | Portman |
| Barrasso | Fischer | Risch |
| Blackburn | Gardner | Roberts |
| Blunt | Graham | Romney |
| Boozman | Grassley | Rubio |
| Braun | Hawley | Sasse |
| Burr | Hoeven | Scott (FL) |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Shelby |
| Collins | Johnson | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Thune |
| Cotton | Lankford | Tillis |
| Cramer | Lee | Toomey |
| Crapo | McConnell | Wicker |
| Cruz | Moran | Young |
| Daines | Murkowski | |
| Enzi | Paul | |

NAYS—47

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Hirono | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Jones | Schatz |
| Booker | Kaine | Schumer |
| Brown | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | King | Sinema |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Carper | Leahy | Stabenow |
| Casey | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Markey | Udall |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murphy | Warren |
| Feinstein | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Hassan | Reed | |

NOT VOTING—4

Harris
Loeffler

Perdue
Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Broussard nomination?

Mr. LEE. I ask for the yeas and nays. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—92

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer | Portman |
| Baldwin | Gardner | Reed |
| Barrasso | Gillibrand | Risch |
| Bennet | Graham | Roberts |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Romney |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Rosen |
| Blunt | Heinrich | Rubio |
| Booker | Hirono | Sanders |
| Boozman | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Braun | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Brown | Inhofe | Schumer |
| Burr | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Cantwell | Jones | Shaheen |
| Capito | Kaine | Shelby |
| Cardin | Kelly | Sinema |
| Carper | Kennedy | Smith |
| Casey | King | Stabenow |
| Cassidy | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lankford | Tester |
| Coons | Leahy | Thune |
| Cornyn | Lee | Tillis |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Toomey |
| Cotton | Markey | Udall |
| Cramer | McConnell | Van Hollen |
| Crapo | Menendez | Warner |
| Daines | Merkley | Warren |
| Duckworth | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Enzi | Murphy | Wyden |
| Ernst | Murray | Young |
| Feinstein | Peters | |

NAYS—4

Cruz
Hawley

Paul
Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—4

Harris
Loeffler

Perdue
Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cooksey nomination?

Mr. HAWLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 260 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Ernst | Paul |
| Barrasso | Fischer | Portman |
| Blackburn | Gardner | Risch |
| Blunt | Graham | Roberts |
| Boozman | Grassley | Romney |
| Braun | Hawley | Rubio |
| Burr | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cotton | King | Thune |
| Cramer | Lankford | Tillis |
| Crapo | Lee | Toomey |
| Cruz | McConnell | Wicker |
| Daines | Moran | Young |
| Enzi | Murkowski | |

NAYS—46

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Sanders |
| Bennet | Hirono | Schatz |
| Blumenthal | Jones | Schumer |
| Booker | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Brown | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cardin | Leahy | Stabenow |
| Carper | Manchin | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Udall |
| Coons | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Peters | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Reed | |
| Hassan | Rosen | |

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Harris | Perdue |
| Loeffler | Rounds |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the most important item on the Senate's to-do list before the end of the year is a bipartisan emergency relief package for a nation suffering the worst month of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Negotiations continue between a bipartisan group of Senate and House Members who, last week, agreed in principle on a \$900-plus billion emergency relief proposal. As the details continue to get sorted, Speaker PELOSI

and I have encouraged everyone to use this bipartisan proposal as a framework for negotiations.

Yesterday, the White House presented us an offer of similar size, around \$900 billion—an encouraging sign that Republican leadership is moving in the right direction by endorsing the size of the Gang of 8's bill. But the President's proposal must not be allowed to supersede or obstruct the bipartisan congressional talks that are underway. That is where the real action is and where bipartisan agreement on the basic concepts will ultimately be forged.

The President's proposal, for instance, completely misses the mark on unemployment benefits and aid to American families. In order to include \$600 stimulus checks, it actually cuts proposed unemployment benefits by greater than a factor of 4, from \$180 billion to just \$40 billion—an unacceptably low amount—while tens of millions of Americans remain out of work, almost all of whom have lost their jobs because of COVID.

Economists from every end of the spectrum, including the conservative U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are warning us that the United States faces the prospect of a double-dip recession without another round of emergency fiscal stimulus. A robust unemployment benefit is crucial—crucial—to that program. Earlier in the pandemic, it helped keep 12 million Americans out of poverty and propped up consumer spending. We shouldn't be cutting unemployment benefits now, as the President's team proposes; we should be extending them.

Now, the Republican leader, as usual, gave a very angry speech this morning accusing Democrats of all manner of things, including intentionally blocking aid to thwart President Trump. I don't know what evidence he has of that, but there are actual reports—honest-to-God reports—in the New York Times and the Washington Post that Leader MCCONNELL was warning the White House not to cut a deal on COVID relief before the election.

Here is the Washington Post: "McConnell warns White House against making stimulus deal as Pelosi and Mnuchin inch closer." That is from October 20—2 weeks before the election.

Meanwhile, Democrats have continually lowered our proposals, now by over \$2 trillion, to move closer to our Republican colleagues in the spirit of compromise and for the sake of getting something done for the American people. It would do a whole lot of good if the Republican leader would drop the daily tirades and diatribes, which seem to be based in some alternative reality, and join the rest of the Senate in urging the bipartisan negotiations now underway to continue.

Families all over the country are nearing a point of desperation, unable to put food on the table, a roof over their children's heads. By January, nearly 12 million renters will owe an

average of nearly \$6,000 in back rent and utilities—a shocking figure.

We need to deliver an emergency relief package to keep American families, workers, and businesses afloat until the crisis finally begins to subside. The only way to get that done is in a bipartisan fashion. The sooner the Republican leader realizes it, the better.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on Biden nominations—President-Elect Biden continues to roll out an impressive slate of Secretaries-designate to lead Cabinet agencies in his administration.

Yesterday, he selected Lloyd Austin to be the next Secretary of Defense, another groundbreaking selection. Mr. Austin would be the first African-American to lead the largest Cabinet agency in our government. Secretary-designate Austin is a familiar face to many of us on Capitol Hill, and I am also pleased to say he is a familiar face to many in the North Country in New York. He is the former commander of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum—the pride of Jefferson County.

Like all of President-Elect Biden's national security nominees, Senate-designate Austin is deeply experienced and familiar with our Nation's national security, as well as the many issues that face our servicemembers and their families each and every day. Lloyd Austin served our Nation for more than four decades, and his willingness to serve his country again is admirable. He will make an excellent Secretary of Defense.

Now, an hour ago, I met with President-Elect Biden's economic team by teleconference, including Secretary-designate of Treasury, Janet Yellen, to discuss priorities with the incoming administration on how to get our economy back on track. I urged them, once President-Elect Biden becomes President, to go bold. Austerity right now is not what America needs but a bold program to stimulate our economy and get things moving, to help get people jobs—good-paying jobs—because our economy is suffering. I look forward to our continued conversations.

A few weeks ago, I predicted that we would see some crocodile tears from the Republican majority about Biden's Cabinet nominees, but I didn't think it would occur this fast. It began when several Republican Senators raised some objections over Neera Tanden's Twitter feed. After 4 years of pretending that they "didn't see" President Trump's latest online outburst, it seems that Senate Republicans have rediscovered their Twitter passwords now that Joe Biden is the President-elect.

This week, after President-Elect Biden announced that Xavier Becerra is his pick to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services, Republican Senators raised concerns, in their minds, about Mr. Becerra's qualifications. The senior Senator from Texas said: